

**FINLAND NEARING A CRISIS.****PROGRESS OF THE RUSSIFYING OF THE GRAND DUCHY.**

New Conscripts Ordered to Appear by the Middle of June—The Czar's Order Devoid so Far—Measures to Destroy the National Existence of Finland

The latest news from Finland indicates that a crisis is approaching in the affairs of the Grand Duchy. There has already been one collision between the Cossacks and the citizens. The danger point will be reached next month, when the time expires within which the new conscripts are required to present themselves at the appointed places. All the garrison towns are being filled with Russian troops.

While the immediate cause of trouble is the new conscription law promulgated in direct violation of the Finnish Constitution, the real issue is the determination of the present Czar and his advisers to Russify Finland. The difference between Finland and Poland is this, that the one country has been in a state of rebellion from the first, while the other has painstakingly lived up to the obligations forced upon it.

In 1899, at the end of a disastrous war, Sweden bought peace by ceding Finland to the victor. The treaty of peace gave the Finns their semi-independence, with a solemnly guaranteed Constitution to safeguard their national existence.

Finland was to be governed by Finns. No change could be made in the Constitution without the consent of the Landtag or Parliament, which included representatives of the four estates of the nation, the nobles, the clergy, the burghers and the peasants.

No Finnlander could be arrested or tried except under the laws of his own country, nor could he be pressed into military service except in the national army, which was to be commanded by Finns and returned to him after service outside of Finland in time of peace. The Lutheran Church was to remain the established church of the country. Finally, the official language was to be Finnish or Swedish, according to the preference of either in the districts concerned.

Each Czar, on his accession as Grand Duke of Finland, took oath to respect and uphold its constitution. The attitude of the three Alexanders and the first Nicholas toward Finland was one of confidence and good will. It was reserved for Nicholas II, to initiate a departure from that policy. In February, 1890, he issued a manifesto by which with a stroke of his pen the Grand Duchy was reduced to dependent Russophile provinces.

It is necessary for the welfare of Finland, the manifesto declared, that she be united by closer bonds to the Empire of Russia. The Landtag will be dissolved, having ceased to be the representative body of the country. His Majesty the Nicholas II will in the future legislate for Finland without the latter's advice or assistance, and every new law must be approved by the Senate of the Grand Duchy or the Imperial Council at St. Petersburg, and must be sanctioned before its enforcement by the Emperor. On the other hand, a certain number of Finnish Senators will be entitled to a vote in the proceedings.

The new law, which has since then observed Feb. 15 as a day of national mourning, the public places of amusement are empty on that day. Even the streets are deserted. Everybody remains at home, drawn blinds, and at night no lamps are lit.

The Governor-General appointed to carry out the Czar's policy in Finland was one Bobrikoff, who had served an apprenticeship in Poland, and, as the art of self-determining nationalities, he has aimed his blows from the very beginning at three of the strongest bulwarks of Finnish national life, namely the language, the freedom of public opinion and the national character of the administration.

The language was reached through the schools, primarily. Not only has the teaching of Russian been made obligatory in the public schools, but the minimum amount of time allotted to instruction has been fixed at thirty hours a week which implies virtually that all instruction must be carried on in Russian. So far no direct restrictions have been placed on the use of the Finnish or Swedish languages.

The use of Russian has been made compulsory for all correspondence between the various Government Departments as well as between them and the Imperial Government. This has been promulgated making knowledge of Russian a prerequisite to the incumbency of a number of important public offices. The Governor-General has already employed the language question as a pretext for the removal of many objective functionaries, among whom may be mentioned several members of the judiciary, the Director General of Customs, the Director of Prisons and the chiefs of police of the largest cities.

The public press in Finland has at all times been subject to censorship. Bobrikoff either suspends the publication of the offending organ for a fixed period, ranging from six months to a year, or suspends it entirely. The totalistic of the Finnish press for the three years ending Dec. 31, 1901, includes not fewer than twenty-three newspapers. During the same time no application for permission to start a new paper in any language, in the case of the Finnish language, was granted. On Feb. 1 last he forced the Finnish Telegraph Bureau at Helsingfors, to cease its operations, whereby an end was put to the direct exchange of news between the Finns and the Central press.

The prohibiting of public meetings of any kind has been another means resorted to by the Governor-General for the silencing of all troublesome expressions of opinion. The press of the larger cities, notably that of Helsingfors, the capital, have been reorganized under Russian chiefs.

Keenly as the nation has taken to heart all these infringements of its rights, none of them has been more painful or distressing than the revoking of the constitutional exemption of Finnish subjects from military service outside their own country. By an Imperial ukase promulgated in July, 1901, the old law was arbitrarily abolished, the men of the land were called up out of existence, and a new conscription law was forced on the people.

The new law contains no limitation on the number of conscripts that may be drawn from the land, nor does it limit the constitutional right of the Landtag to fix the military budget. Worst of all, it compels the Finnish conscripts to serve in Russian regiments.

The nation has selected a regiment of footmen, a regiment of dragoons, a half dozen infantry battalions. The total numerical strength of the standing force was about 5,000, with some 20,000 conscripts duty in classes or held in reserve. All the men of the land, the disbanded regiments, including barracks, arms and uniforms, was turned over to the Russian War Department regiments of the fact that it had been paid for by the Finnish government. The latter was thus deprived of money to the extent of \$5,000,000. As quickly as the Finnish regiments were disposed of, Russian troops were bundled into the barracks vacated.

The Finns have not failed to protest against these violations of their constitutional rights. From the first they have refused to recognize the validity of the new conscription law, and when this was ordered to be read in the churches the congregations in most of them rose and left a body. In other cases, the religious services were read in the imperial church, for which indemnification they were subsequently disciplined.

A petition signed by 471,381 Finns—men and women, was sent to the Czar, asking him to respect the Constitution and his own oath to uphold it. The petition received no attention.

While it was on the way to St. Petersburg the time came for each community to choose

commissioners of conscription for the year 1902. The first election was to take place in Helsingfors.

The citizens entitled to vote assembled in town meeting, as is the usage but only to adopt a resolution declaring that the law is unconstitutional, and that neither could nor could do anything toward carrying out its provisions. They then adjourned without having elected any commissioners. Other communities followed the example by the capital.

The Governor-General then appointed conscription commissioners, but the calls issued by them have been disregarded by the young men drawn for military service and so far no conscripts have reported for duty. The Czar has just extended the time for them to do so till the middle of June.

A little while afterward, when there was only a very small surface to be cut over, the hares were seen to be hurrying back again into the thick meadow hay. The thoughtful old farmer who was driving held his horses and calling his companions a search was made by them, resulting in the finding of the mother and two badly frightened little leverets hiding in the grass. The brave mother had chosen rather to seek death with her young than to enjoy safety for herself.

Remembering that the Belgian hare has been known to fight marauding cats to a standstill in defense of his hutchmates, those instances do not appear to be quite so striking perhaps as an occurrence upon an old bush road one May morning. Every one knows how intensely shy are the ruffed grouse in the spring time, and what fear of man poor birds have at all times.

The present division of the country into provinces with Finnish civil governors at their head will be practically superseded by a division into three military districts, each one commanded by an old bush road one May morning. Every one knows how intensely shy are the ruffed grouse in the spring time, and what fear of man poor birds have at all times.

For coaching measures against the imperial commissioners have also been predicted. Finally there are impending certain administrative measures, the necessity of which the Czar has referred to. An imperial committee is now at work to consider the matter, and will be termed "a" or "new" instruction for the Senate and Governor-General of Finland."

It is expected that these instructions will include a paragraph conferring on the Governor-General the power to deport offenders to Siberia or to Siberia or other parts of the empire without trial and for purely political reasons.

**MOTHER'S LOVE.**

**Acts of Great Courage It Inspires Among Timid Forest Creatures.**

KNOWLTON, Canada, May 31.—At this time the lover of nature can notice how overwhelming is the instinct of maternal love even in the case of creatures usually most fearful. "As timid as a hare" is a proverbial saying, and yet—as an illustration—a mother hare did an unusually pucky thing in defense of her young.

A big, good-natured Newfoundland had surprised two tiny hares about as big as a man's hand and for fun detained them on the approach of the dog, probably expecting the little things to follow her.

But as the big fellow was examining his find with a good deal of curiosity, he conquered natural fear, and the hare rushed out and sprang with uplifted fore paws straight in the face of the dog. Drawing back a yard or two, she repeated the attack to the astonishment of the Newfoundland, whose owner was by this time at his side.

Completely ignoring the man, she continued to snap vigorously at the dog, who was evidently losing his temper. When at a word from his master he drew back to heel, and allowed the frightened youngster to gambol away from danger with their gallant mother.

Sometimes, again, in cutting around and around a bay field with a mowing machine,

the elderly, hidden little sported thing which lay in perfect stillness, double-lashed according to orders, when the mother having flushed her purse came up with a breathless thump, brushing her with a gentle touch of the forepaws, made her way to her baby with a good gentle bleating, and after a moment's earnest study over it, calmly and fearlessly facing this new enemy, the winter bear, a hare, which had been laid low by the machine.

Instead of turning toward the woods the deer at once made for the open clearing, and topped the fence before the dog could get to her. The writer, supposing that she was at great risk from her boldness, made the bound away from her, made search for it among the undergrowth near which she had been feeding.

The mother, however, had not sliated the elderly, hidden little sported thing which lay in perfect stillness, double-lashed according to orders, when the mother having flushed her purse came up with a breathless thump, brushing her with a gentle touch of the forepaws, made her way to her baby with a good gentle bleating, and after a moment's earnest study over it, calmly and fearlessly facing this new enemy, the winter bear, a hare, which had been laid low by the machine.

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